

REMARKS

Summary

Figure 6 and Claims 2, 6, and 8 have been amended to overcome formal objections thereto. In addition, amended independent Claims 1, 5, and 7 recite at least one feature not understood to be disclosed or suggested by the Ogino et al. patent. Therefore, the application is now in allowable form.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-11 are pending, with Claims 1, 5 and 7 being independent. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 have been amended for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve their form. In addition, Claims 2, 6, and 8 have been amended to overcome formal objections thereto and independent Claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended to overcome a substantive rejection. Claims 9-11 are newly added.

Requested Action

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objections and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Drawing Objection

Figure 6 has been objected to because it is not labeled as prior art. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Applicant has amended Figure 6 to add the legend prior

art thereto and submits herewith the attached corrected formal drawing of Figure 6, thereby rendering the objection moot.

Formal Claim Objection

Claims 2, 6, and 8 are objected to for minor informalities therein. The Examiner suggests specific amendments for overcoming the objections. In response, Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner, thereby rendering the objection moot.

Substantive Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by the patent to Ogino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,864,910). In addition, Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the patent to Ogino et al.

Response to Substantive Rejections

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to a stereoscopic photographing lens unit that is attached to a camera main unit having a recording medium on which picture signals representing an image formed by the stereoscopic photographing lens unit are recorded. The stereoscopic photographing lens unit has a first photographing optical axis and a second photographing optical axis. The unit comprises control means for controlling a photographing optical system including

the stereoscopic photographing lens unit, and transmitting means for transmitting predetermined information of the photographing optical system, including control information provided by the control means, to the recording medium in the camera main unit for recordation on the same recording medium together with the picture signals in such a manner so as to permit reading out of the transmitted predetermined information with the picture signals from the recording medium during reproduction of the picture signals.

The Office Action identifies two different portions of the Ogino et al. patent that allegedly show the recording of control information. But neither portion of this patent is understood to disclose or suggest transmitting means for transmitting predetermined information of the photographing optical system, including control information provided by the control means, to the recording medium in the camera main unit for recordation on the same recording medium together with the picture signals in such a manner so as to permit reading out of the transmitted predetermined information with the picture signals from the recording medium during reproduction of the picture signals, as recited by amended Claim 1.

Page 6 of the Office Action identifies ROM 130 in the Ogino et al. patent as storing control information. But, because ROM 130 is a read-only memory, it is not understood to also store picture signals representing an image formed by the stereoscopic photographing lens unit. Thus, this portion of the Ogino et al. patent is not understood to disclose or suggest the recordation of control information with picture signals.

Page 7 of the Office Action indicates that column 8, line 65 through column 9, line 52 of the Ogino et al. patent discloses the storing of control information with picture signals. However, Applicants submits that this portion of the Ogino et al. patent is merely understood to

disclose that: 1) the CCD 200 picks up the parallax images for the left and right eyes; 2) parallax signals from the CCD 200 are alternately read out in synchronism with the driving of the left and right LCD elements 102 and 105 into transmissive and non-transmissive states; 3) information on the vertical synchronization signal and the odd/even field is transmitted between the lens microcomputer 127 and the camera microcomputer 128; and 4) the parallax signals read out from the CCD 200 are transmitted to the electronic viewfinder 3 where they are alternately displayed in a time-serial manner and viewed as a double image, because the viewfinder 3 has no stereoscopic display function. No recording of pictures signals together with control information is understood to be disclosed in this passage or in any other passage of the Ogino et al. patent.

Page 8 of the Office Action also argues that because the viewer recognizes the right and left alternately displayed images, the camera disclosed in the Ogino et al. patent inherently stores picture signals together with control information on whether the odd/even field of an input picture signal corresponds to the picture signal for the left eye or the right eye. But, it is Applicant's understanding that for the viewfinder 3 in the Ogino et al. patent to display the right and left parallax images, it is not necessary to store parallax control information together with the picture signals. This control information can be stored in a variety of locations in the camera. Therefore, the Ogino et al. patent is not understood to inherently store control information with the picture signals.

In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to recite the transmitting of predetermined information including control information to the recording medium in the camera main unit for recordation on the same recording medium together with the picture signals in such a manner so

as to permit reading out of the transmitted predetermined information with the picture signals from the recording medium during reproduction of the picture signals. Applicant does not understand the Ogino et al. patent to disclose or suggest such a reading-out feature of amended Claim 1.

For all of these reasons, Applicant submits that the Patent Office has not satisfied its burden of proof to establish that the Ogino et al. patent discloses or suggest each feature of amended Claim 1. Therefore, amended Claim 1 is not understood to be anticipated by the Ogino et al. patent. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn. And since amended independent Claims 5 and 7 recite similar features, they are allowable for similar reasons. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent Claims 5 and 7 also be withdrawn.

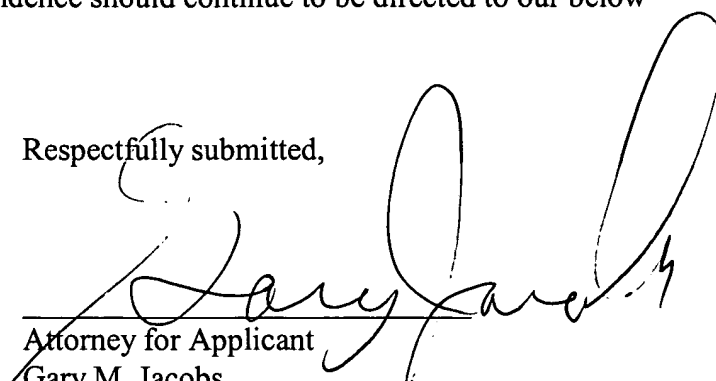
The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited. For example, new dependent Claims 9-11 recite the recordation of the predetermined information side by side with the picture signals or the speech signals, which feature is not understood to be disclosed or suggested by the Ogino et al. patent.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the drawings as follows, as shown on the enclosed corrected formal drawing thereof.

In Figure 6

Add the legend --Prior Art--, thereto.